Application No. 09/902,466
Amendment dated February 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated August 18, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 1-4.
Sheet 1 replaces original sheet 1.
Sheet 2a and 2b replace sheet 2.
Sheet 3a and 3b replace sheets 3a and 3b.
Sheet 4 replaces sheet 4.

In each case the new sheets are simply formal replacements of the previously informal figures.
There are not annotated sheets because there are no substantive changes to the figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are pending.

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 stand rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-3, 5-17 are presented herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to the drawings. Applicant has replaced the figures with formal drawings and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anandakumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,213).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions and submits the following remarks in response.

The present invention as claimed in independent claim 1 is directed to a telephone system for transmitting telephone signals between first and second mobile stations. The system includes a first internet protocol interface configured to receive an incoming cell phone signal generated by the first mobile station, and to transmit this phone signal to the internet. A second internet protocol interface receives the phone signal sent through the internet by the first internet protocol interface and transmits it to the second mobile station, such that users of the first and second

mobile stations can engage in a conversation where the phone signals are communicated over substantial distances through the internet

The first and second internet protocol interfaces each maintain an echo canceller/equalizer module configured to correct distortions in said phone signal caused by the travel of the phone signal through free air, server delays and internet delays.

As noted in the previous Amendment, the present invention employs separate cell tower echo cancellers (Fig. 2, 48 & 48') and internet protocol interface echo cancellers (Fig. 2, 54 & 54'). The former eliminates echo caused by the travel of the phone signal through free air while the latter eliminates echo caused by internet and phone delays. This design prevents echo caused by cell phone transmissions from being propagated through the VoIP network, and the echo caused by internet and server delays from being propagated through the cell phone network.

For example, as noted in independent claim 17, first and second internet protocol interfaces each maintain an echo canceller/equalizer module configured to correct distortions in a phone signal caused by server and internet delays, and in which the phone signal is transmitted to and from said first and second internet protocol interface by means of a first and second cell tower equipped with an additional echo canceller/equalizer configured to correct distortions in said phone signal caused by the travel of said phone signal through the free air.

On the contrary the cited prior art, namely Anandakumar, teaches an adaptive

rate/diversity improvement for an integrated circuit. (See col. 40, line 42-46). Such a system is

not the same as the present invention. For example, Anandakumar teaches an adaptation to a

signal transmission including "time path or combined time/path diversity packets" in addition to

the real time information being conveyed across the communications channel. Furthermore,

Anandakumar teaches the transmission of additional packets of the real time information itself.

This extra information is transmitted to obtain an improved "quality of service" by use of these

"redundancy scheme" packets, with the understanding that such additional packets also reach the

receiver at the right time to be of utility in ensuring a complete communication.

The additional information is applicable to high capacity channels such as on a channel

onboard an integrated circuit. In Anandakumar one packet of desired information (such as the

speech content) is accompanied by a time diversity packet, a path diversity packet, and a

redundant schema packet with only one of such four packets containing the desired information.

However, such additional capacity is not available in typically cellular communication channels

employed by the first and second internet protocol interfaces of the present invention. The

additional time/path diversity packets used by Anandakumar are not the same as echo cancellers

located at internet protocol interfaces but instead are simply a packet based solution for improved

communications.

Such an arrangement does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the present

invention as Anandakumar does not show echo cancellation in a first internet protocol interface,

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transmission of the communication through the internet, and then echo cancellation in a second

internet protocol interface.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-3 and 5-17

are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the

Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application he is invited

to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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